set-ups at the Headquarters of the Department, rationalisation of distribution of work and channel of submision of papers on administrative, finance and technical sides at the Headquarters keeping in view the need for distancing policy making functions from operational functions in the context of implementaiton Notional Telecom Policy announced by the Government.

(c) No final decision has been taken in this regard.

Reduction of Tariff Charge for Local and STD Calls

5426. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tariff charged for both the local and STD calls would be reduced;

(b) whether it is a fact that new telecom technology reduces the use of manpower; and

(c) the details as to how Government determine the cost of telecom service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No such proposal is under consderation.

(b) Yes, Sir. However three will be no reduction in manpower in Department of Telecommunications, on account of large scale expansions proposed;

(c) The costs of telecom service are determined on the basis of expenses on maintenance and operations, and interest and depreciation on the ambunt f capital invested.

New Distribution System for Telephone Directories

5427. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have devised a new system for delivery of telephone directories;

(b) if so, what system is proposed to be adopted in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) whether directory information would be updated every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing system of distribution of the directories by the Department would continue for Andhra Pradesh Circle.

(c) The directory information is being updated regularly.

Amendment in the Indian Post Office Act and Regulations

5428. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government have been considering to amend the Indian Post Office Act and Regulations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the amendments Government propose to bring about in the Act and the Rules; and

(d) the benefits that will accrue to the general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Need for changes in the Act has arisen in the context of emerging trends in communication by mail in the country and other socio-economic factors.

(c) and (d) Amendments to the Act, are under consideration in the Government.